

Morrow County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017
Irrigon Branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, Community Room
Irrigon, Oregon

Present

Chair Melissa Lindsay
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty
Jerry Sorte, Administrative Officer
Kate Knop, Finance Director
Richard Tovey, County Counsel

Karen Wolff, Human Resources Director
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Audience

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector
Robin Jones, Finance Department
David Sykes, Heppner Gazette-Times
Terry Tallman, Boardman

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:01 a.m.

City and Citizen Comments: No comments

Open Agenda/Agenda Changes: Postponed: Request for funding from the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County; Add to Consent Calendar: Claims – February 2017 Retirement Taxes; Add under Business Items: Invoice from the Columbia Development Authority

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the following items in the Consent Calendar:

- 1. Accounts Payable dated March 9, 2017*
- 2. Purchase Pre-Authorization for Sheriff's Office 10% portion of the 2016 Response Information Management System (RIMS) Server Replacement (\$5,728.76)*

Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the February 2017 Retirement Taxes dated March 6th. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Presentation of Morrow County Financial Statement and Independent Auditors' Report

Cameron Anderson, CPA, Barnett & Moro, P.C.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the audit process, briefly reviewed the basic financial statement and answered questions from the Board and audience. He noted the County's total net position is \$87,000,000, compared to \$88,700,000 the previous year. The full Auditors' Report can be found on the County website: www.co.morrow.or.us/finance/page/financial-statements.

Commissioner Russell moved to accept the Morrow County, Oregon Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report dated June 30, 2016. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Business Items

Sheriff's Office request to extend job offer above Step 1

Undersheriff John Bowles

Undersheriff Bowles requested an exception be made to allow him to extend a job offer to a candidate higher than Step 1. He then outlined the reasons for the exception. Human Resources Director, Karen Wolff, provided a Sheriff's Department 2016-2017 Wage Scale for the Commissioners to review.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve extending an offer of employment to Phillip W. Morris at the following level: Patrol Deputy, Advanced, Step 5. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Budget Transfer Resolution No. R-2017-5

Kate Knop, Finance Director

Commissioner Russell moved to approve Resolution No. R-2017-5 - In the Matter of Transferring Appropriations within the Morrow County General Fund, Pursuant to ORS 294.463(1). Commissioner Doherty seconded and requested further explanation on what necessitated the intra-fund transfer, which Ms. Knop provided. Unanimous approval.

Request for Funding Assistance for the 2017 National Association of Counties (NACo) Western Interstate Region Conference hosted by Deschutes County

Mr. Sorte

The letter of request from Deschutes County Commissioner Tammy Baney states the 2017 NACo Conference will be held in Deschutes County in May and they are hoping to raise \$70,000 from the other counties in the State to support conference events, meals and experiences. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve a contribution of \$2,500 to Deschutes County in support of the 2017 NACo Western Interstate Region Annual Conference. Commissioner Russell seconded and requested additional discussion. He said there is a \$70,000 goal and 36 counties in the State, therefore, each county should contribute \$2,000. He moved to amend the motion to contribute \$2,000. Commissioner Doherty seconded the amendment. Unanimous approval. Vote on the original motion to contribute to the NACo Conference: Unanimous approval. Motion carried as amended.

Request to reappoint Wolf Conservation Representative to the Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee

As the Board's representative, Commissioner Doherty provided an update on the most recent meeting of the Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee. He presented a request for reappointment and draft bylaws for review.

Commissioner Russell moved to reappoint Alan Scott to the Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee as a Wolf Conservation representative, term to be January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Bylaws of the Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee. Commissioner Doherty seconded. Unanimous approval.

Columbia Development Authority Invoice

Commissioner Russell said he looked into the situation further after the February 22nd Board meeting where the original invoice was presented. He said he learned the invoiced amount is for the 10 percent match for each of the five members (Morrow County, Umatilla County, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Port of Morrow, Port of Umatilla).

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve payment of the invoice from the Columbia Development Authority in the amount of \$1,270.80. Commissioner Russell seconded. Unanimous approval.

Staff Reports

Mike Gorman, Assessor/Tax Collector

- Mr. Gorman said he received an email inquiry about the County's willingness to participate in the Solar Energy Payment in Lieu of Taxes Pilot Program. He informed the individual the County is interested but wants projects formally presented for consideration before the process can begin. Commissioner Russell added the previous Court approved the use of the program, however, they did not commit the County to using it, just that it's an available option.
- Taxes left to collect stand at \$1,900,000. This means 92-93% of taxes have been collected.

Mr. Sorte

- A meeting of Department Heads, Elected Officials and the Board of Commissioners will take place on Tuesday, March 14th, 2:00 p.m., Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room.

Ms. Wolff

- Ms. Wolff showed the Board a plaque the County received at the City County Insurance Services (CIS) annual conference for 35 years of continuous membership.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Russell said after being asked by the Oregon Dairy Association, he provided written comment to the Oregon Legislature regarding Senate Bill 197 (Requires Environmental Quality Commission to adopt by rule program for regulating air contaminant emissions from dairy confined animal feeding operations).
- Commissioner Doherty provided a report on Public Health's Local Community Advisory Committee meeting he attended, as did former Judge Terry Tallman.
- Both Commissioner Russell and Doherty indicated they would be attending Association of Oregon Counties subcommittee meetings in Salem, Sunday through Monday evening.
- Chair Lindsay said she would like to start coordinating a training related to emergency preparedness and response with Undersheriff John Bowles. She also said she will be bringing together a list for future discussion related to the Board's recent meeting on financial processes and the annual financial audit. It will include areas where the County can possibly improve its policies and procedures.
- All three Commissioners attended the Morrow County Economic Development Task Force meeting and the Road Committee meeting and briefly reviewed both.

Correspondence Reviewed:

- Sheriff's Office Report of activity for February 2017
- Notice of Integrated Biomass Tour, Wednesday, March 15th in Wallowa, Oregon
- *4-Happenings*, the 4-H February 2017 Newsletter

Adjourned: 10:24 a.m.